

COUNTY OF MERCER

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DATE: Nov. 14, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MERCER COUNTY MARKS AIRPORT'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

EWING, N.J. — Mercer County celebrated Trenton-Mercer Airport's 85th anniversary Nov. 13 at an event that included a splash of local history, the announcement of a \$2.6 million state grant for taxiway improvements, and also marked Frontier Airlines' two-year anniversary of providing low-fare service here.

County Executive Brian M. Hughes said during the event held at the airport in Ewing Township that in order to make the facility viable, a commercial airline was needed to join the mix of private and corporate planes that operate there. Low-cost carrier Frontier Airlines, which began service in November 2012, was the right partner at the right time, he said.

"I couldn't be happier," Hughes said of the county's partnership with Frontier, and the airline's expansion at Trenton-Mercer Airport from twice-weekly flights to Orlando, Florida, two years ago to 18 destinations today. "This is a group effort, because without Frontier, without the professional staff we have running this airport, and without the people of Mercer County and this region, we would have nothing at all."

New Jersey Transportation Commissioner James Fox announced the award of a \$2.6 million state grant for taxiway improvements, and said the county would continue to receive the state's support for its airport. "You have my commitment that we're to do everything we can at our end to make sure you get more money, you get support for this airport and we grow together," he said.

Todd Lehmacher, director of corporate communications for Frontier Airlines, touted the airline's "commitment to low fares done right," and noted that 850,000 Frontier passengers have passed through Trenton-Mercer Airport during the airline's first two years of service.

The event included remarks by Stanley Switlik II, CEO and president of Switlik Inc., formerly the Switlik Parachute Co., which was established in Mercer County in 1920 and has been owned and operated by the Switlik family for four generations. Switlik, who spoke about his company's involvement with the airport over the years, was joined by Sarah Switlik, a fourth generation employee who works in the company's marketing division. Also providing a historical perspective on the airport was Peggy Stephan, whose father, the late Jack Stephan, was the county's first airport manager, a position he held for more than 30 years. The Ewing Township Historical Society generously displayed airport memorabilia spanning more than 100 years.